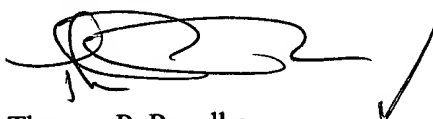


REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claim 4 is amended herein to correct a typographical error. In particular, in the Amendment of September 28, 2001, the concentration of oxygen in the curing zone was inadvertently recited as "100 parts per million". Accordingly, the language has been replaced with its original recitation to "1000 parts per million".

In view of the foregoing remarks and analysis, it is respectfully submitted the claims now pending in the application comply with all statutory requirements, and are presently in condition for immediate allowance. Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Oct 22, 2001

STEVEN DAVIS MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
THE APPLICANT HEREWITH PETITIONS
THE PTO TO EXTEND THE TIME FOR
RESPONSE AS REQUIRED TO MAKE THE
ATTACHED DOCUMENT TIMELY FILED.
PLEASE CHARGE THE COST THEREOF
TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 19-4375

ATTACHMENT II - Marked-Up Claim

4. (Twice Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein an oxygen concentration of the said curing zone is less than 1,000 [100] parts per million.

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